

Published: Jan. 20, 2015, Kokomo Tribune [Page: A4]

http://www.kokomotribune.com/opinion/editorials/editorial-court-finally-ready-to-speak/article_587b8ed2-a021-11e4-9b7b-9b4b78cb4018.html

Editorial: Court finally ready to speak

Finally.

As reported in an Associated Press story we published Saturday, the Supreme Court of the United States is set to rule on whether same-sex couples have a right under the Constitution to marry everywhere in the country.

“The justices will take up gay-rights cases that ask them to declare for the entire nation that people can marry the partners of their choice, regardless of gender,” reported the AP. “The cases will be argued in April, and a decision is expected by late June.”

This news represents a shift in the court’s tactics. On Oct. 6, 2014, the high court decided not to hear cases from Indiana, Oklahoma, Utah, Virginia and Wisconsin on this issue. That non-ruling effectively struck down the same-sex marriage bans in those states, deferring to lower court rulings in the matters. LGBT couples can now wed in all but 14 states.

“The appeals before the court come from gay and lesbian plaintiffs in Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio and Tennessee,” reported the AP. “The federal appeals court that oversees those four states upheld their same-sex

marriage bans in November, reversing pro-gay rights rulings of federal judges in all four states."

As we wrote in our Aug. 29, 2014, editorial, "All roads lead to SCOTUS," the Supreme Court settling this matter once and for all is the only sensible solution to this matter.

This entire process is nothing but a repeat of another civil rights struggle.

In 1967, 17 states still enforced so-called "anti-miscegenation" laws preventing interracial marriage. It took one such couple, Mildred and Richard Loving, to finally bring the issue before the Supreme Court in the case of *Loving v. Virginia*. The couple's one-year prison sentence for marrying each other in Virginia was unanimously struck down by the court.

In 2007, to mark the 40th anniversary of the decision, Mildred Loving drew comparisons between the two issues.

"I am still not a political person, but I am proud that Richard's and my name is on a court case that can help reinforce the love, the commitment, the fairness, and the family that so many people, black or white, young or old, gay or straight seek in life," she said. "I support the freedom to marry for all. That's what Loving, and loving, are all about."